

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL
PG 35
476

STRACZYNSKI
ROMITA JR
HANNA

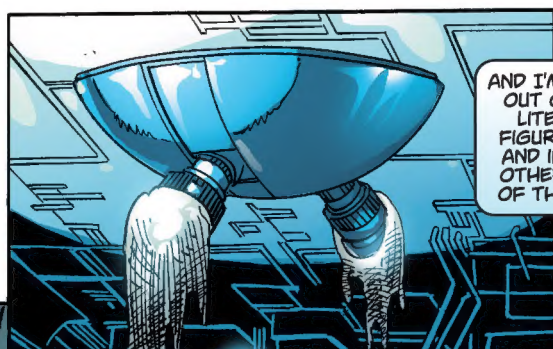


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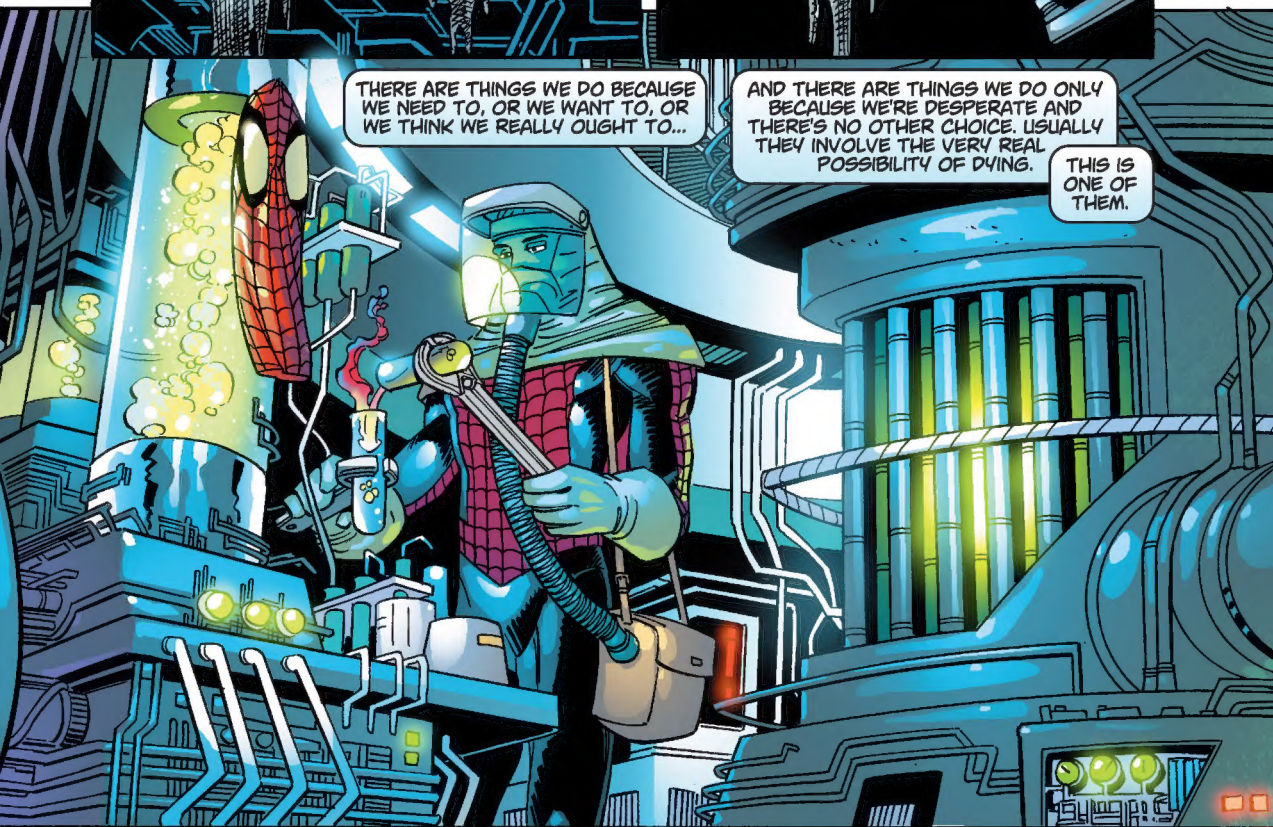
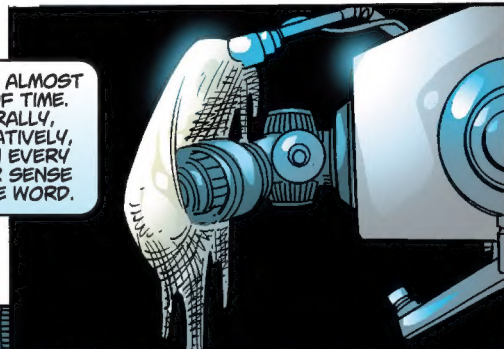


I CAN FEEL MORLUN
APPROACHING.
ALMOST HERE.

COMING OUT



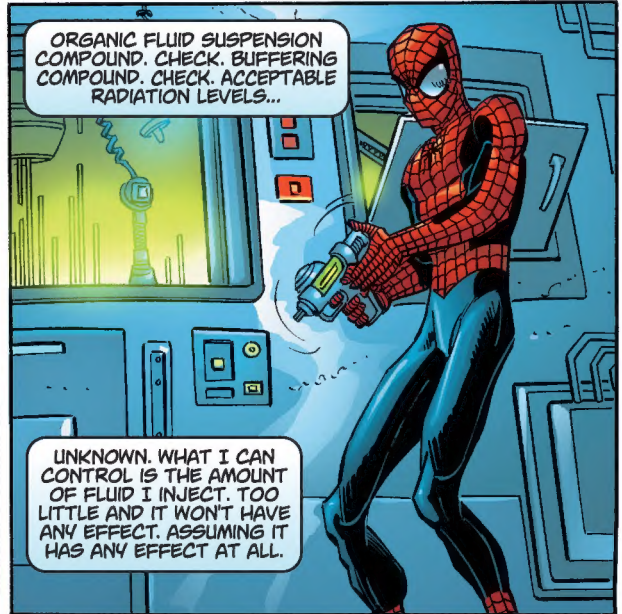
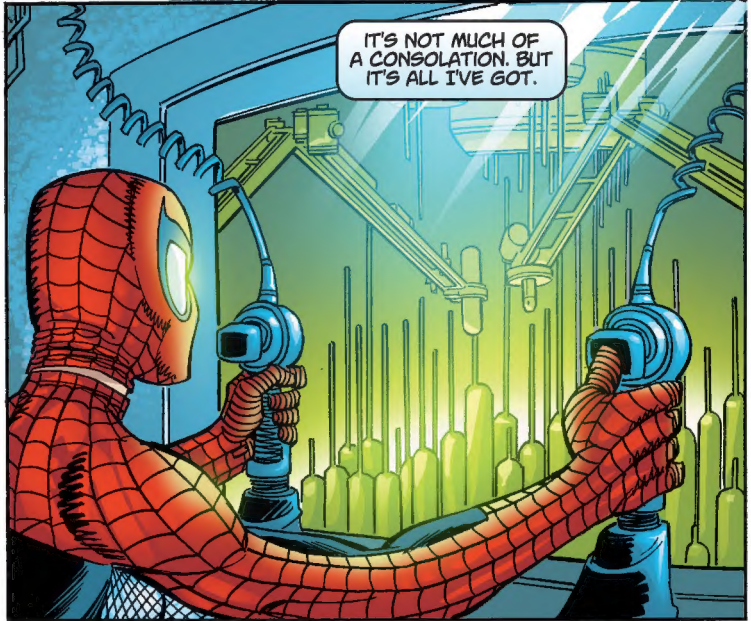
AND I'M ALMOST
OUT OF TIME.
LITERALLY,
FIGURATIVELY,
AND IN EVERY
OTHER SENSE
OF THE WORD.

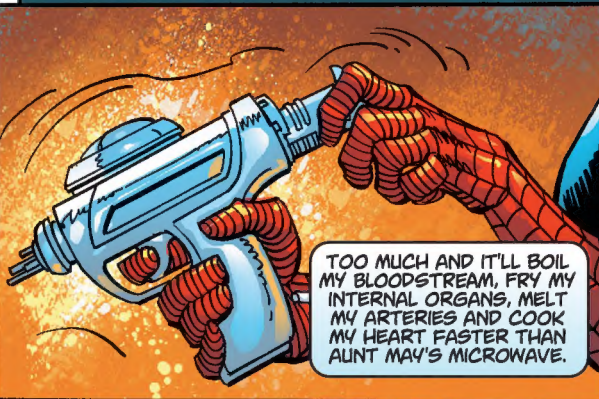


THERE ARE THINGS WE DO BECAUSE
WE NEED TO, OR WE WANT TO, OR
WE THINK WE REALLY OUGHT TO...

AND THERE ARE THINGS WE DO ONLY
BECAUSE WE'RE DESPERATE AND
THERE'S NO OTHER CHOICE. USUALLY
THEY INVOLVE THE VERY REAL
POSSIBILITY OF DYING.

THIS IS
ONE OF
THEM.



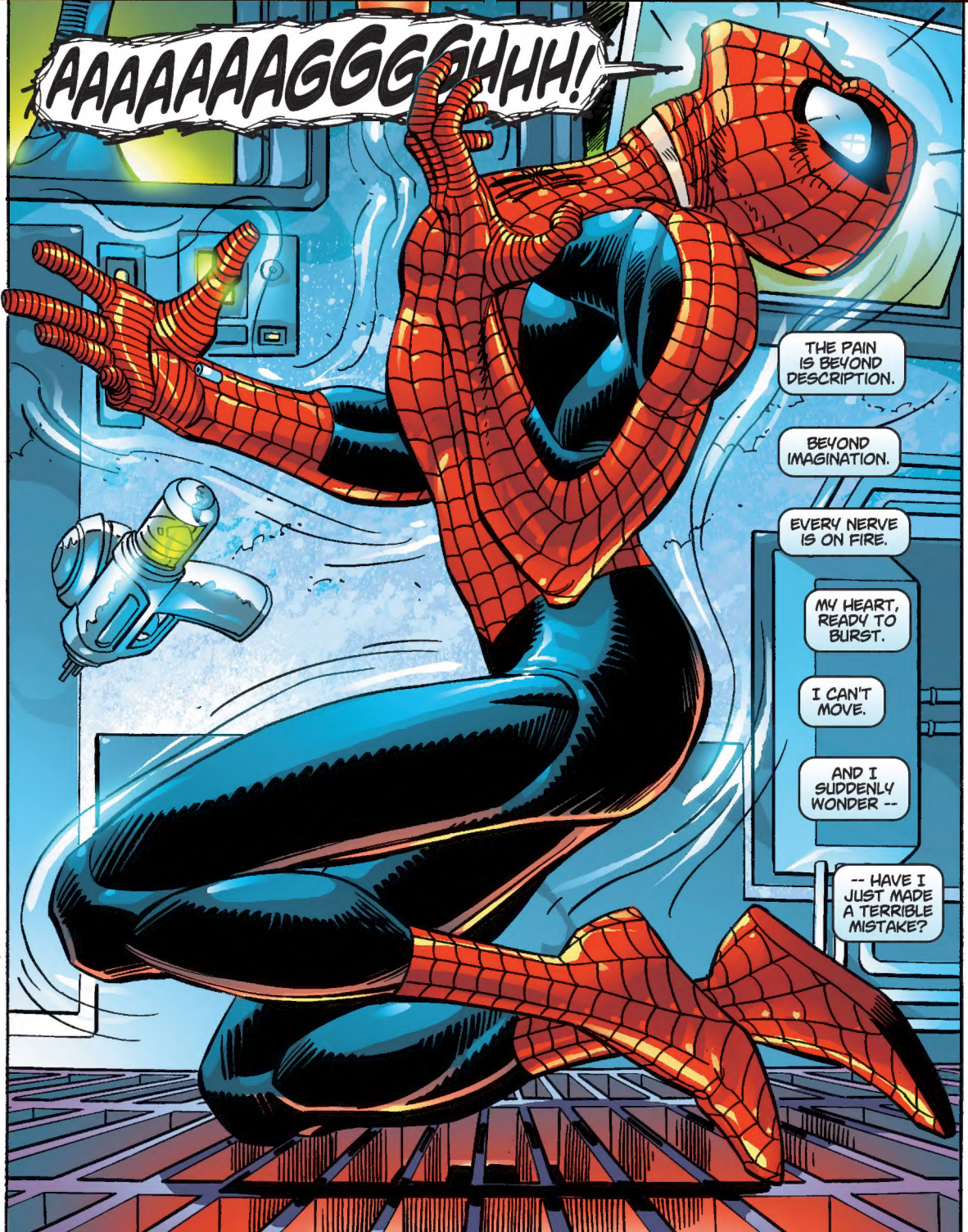


TOO MUCH AND IT'LL BOIL MY BLOODSTREAM, FRY MY INTERNAL ORGANS, MELT MY ARTERIES AND COOK MY HEART FASTER THAN AUNT MAY'S MICROWAVE.



SHHHHTT

WHAT THE HELL... I NEVER WANTED TO LIVE FOREVER ANYWAY.



AAAAAGGGGHHH!

THE PAIN IS BEYOND DESCRIPTION.

BEYOND IMAGINATION.

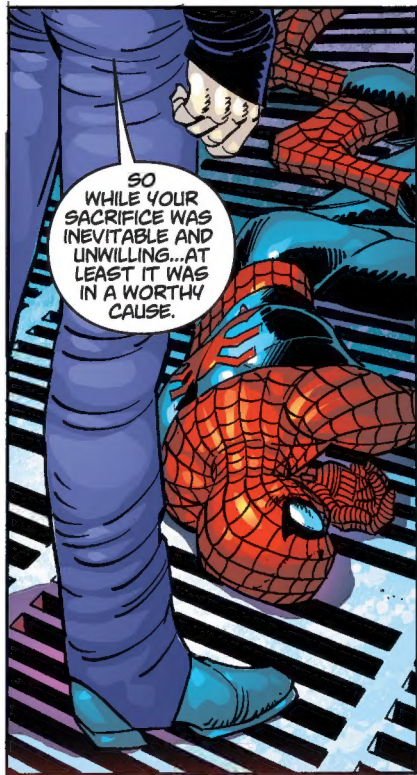
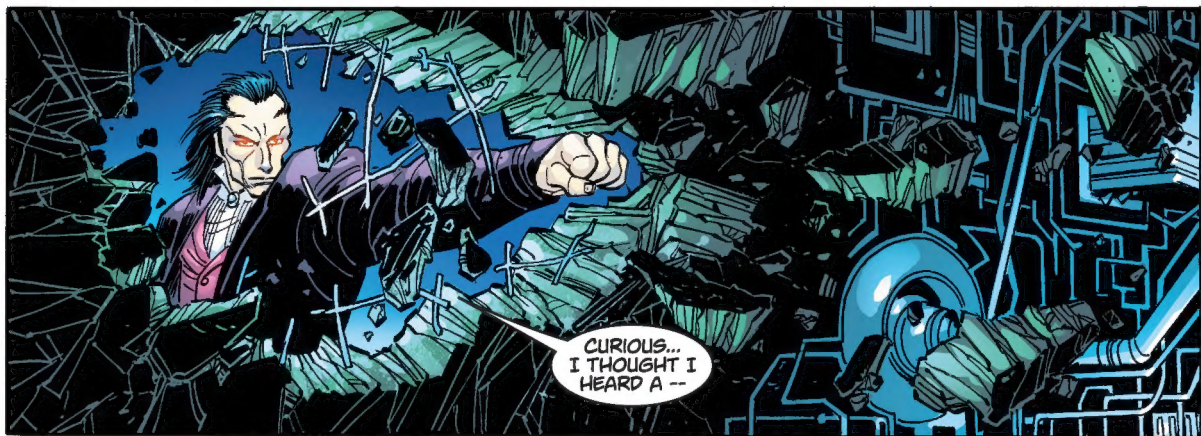
EVERY NERVE IS ON FIRE.

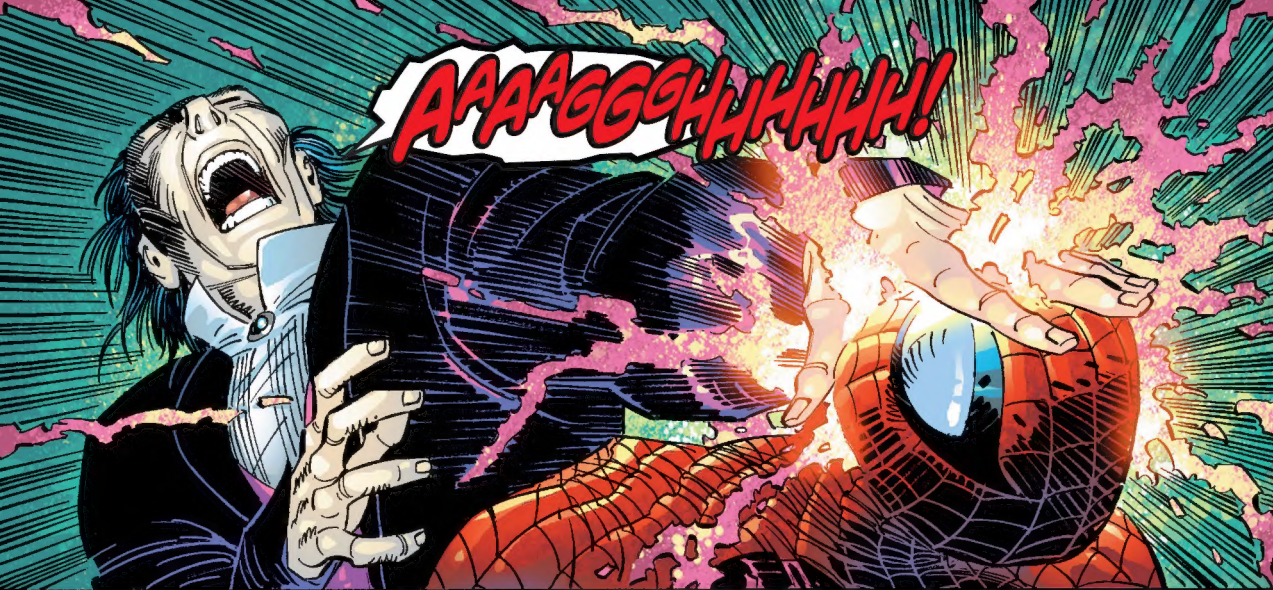
MY HEART, READY TO BURST.

I CAN'T MOVE.

AND I SUDDENLY WONDER --

-- HAVE I JUST MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE?





AAAAGGGHHHHH!



GET AWAY FROM ME!



I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND, WHAT --

TYPICAL, ISN'T IT?



JUST WHEN YOU THINK YOU KNOW SOMEONE...THEY SURPRISE YOU.



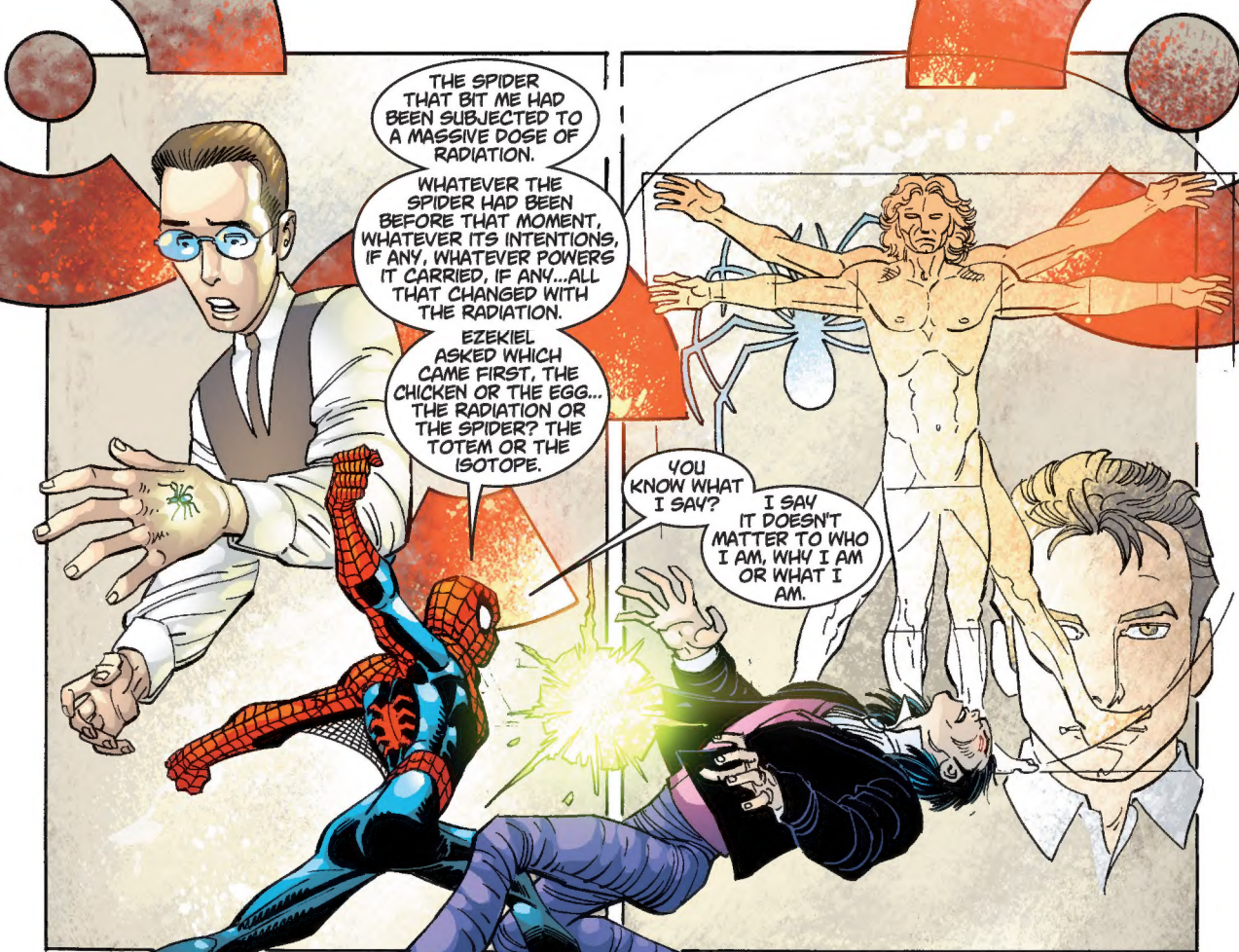
YOU WANTED TO FEED ON ME, BECAUSE IT WAS PURE...RIGHT FROM THE SPIDER'S MOUTH SO TO SPEAK.

JUST ONE PROBLEM.

I MAY BE MANY THINGS... A SNAPPY DRESSER, A GOOD DANCER, AND OVERALL A HECK OF A NICE GUY ONCE YOU GET TO KNOW ME. BUT THERE'S ONE THING I'M NOT.



I'M
NOT
PURE.



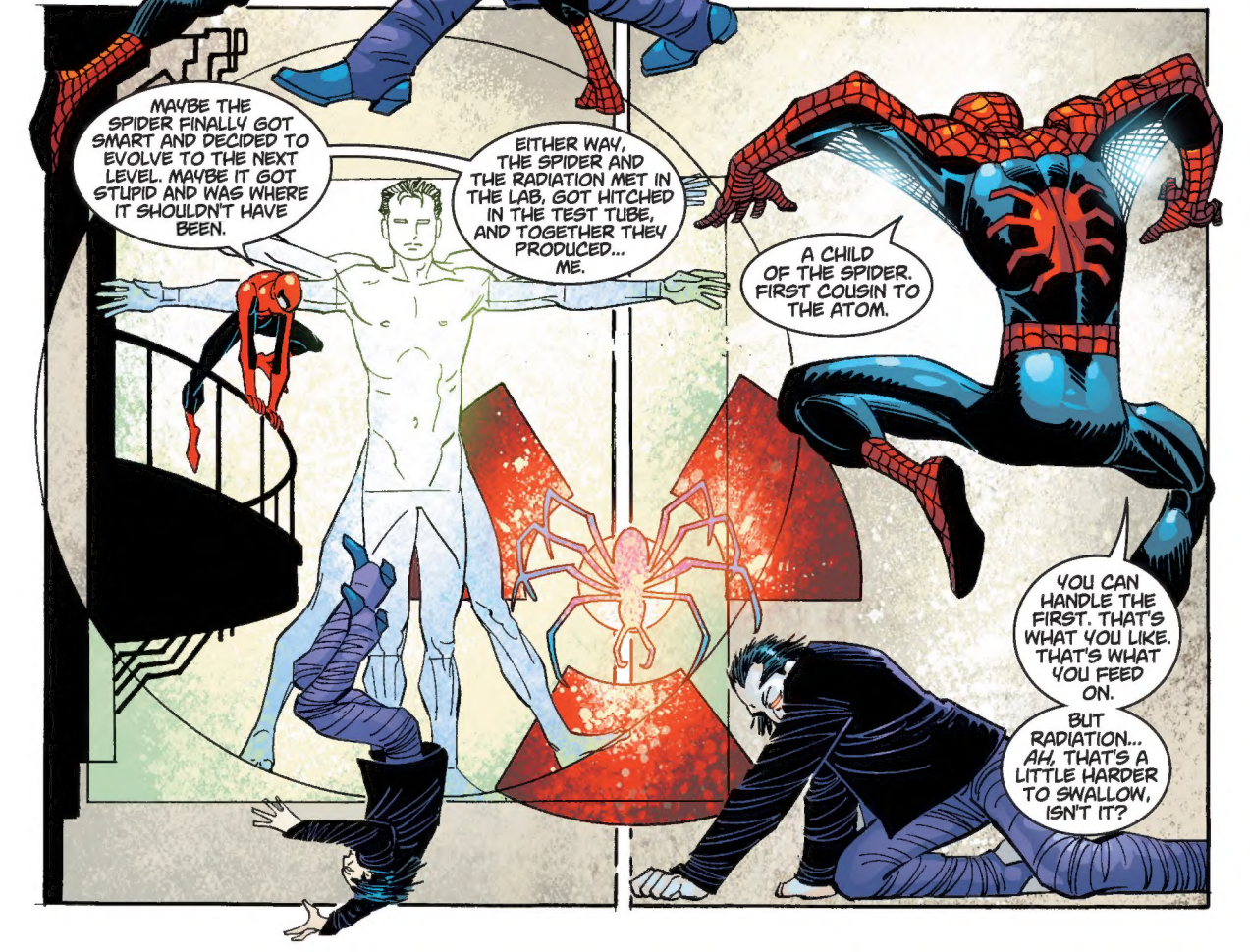
THE SPIDER THAT BIT ME HAD BEEN SUBJECTED TO A MASSIVE DOSE OF RADIATION.

WHATEVER THE SPIDER HAD BEEN BEFORE THAT MOMENT, WHATEVER ITS INTENTIONS, IF ANY, WHATEVER POWERS IT CARRIED, IF ANY...ALL THAT CHANGED WITH THE RADIATION.

EZEKIEL ASKED WHICH CAME FIRST, THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG... THE RADIATION OR THE SPIDER? THE TOTEM OR THE ISOTOPE.

YOU KNOW WHAT I SAY?

I SAY IT DOESN'T MATTER TO WHO I AM, WHY I AM OR WHAT I AM.



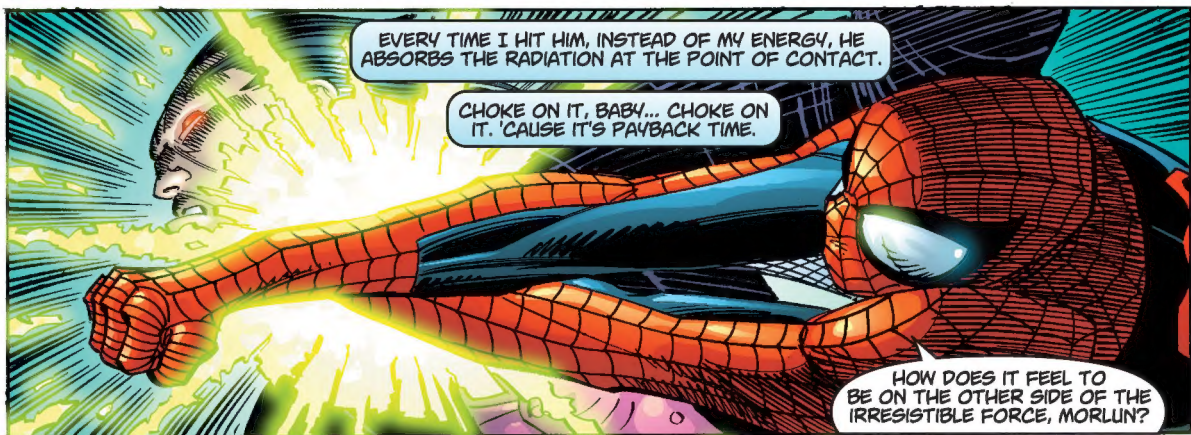
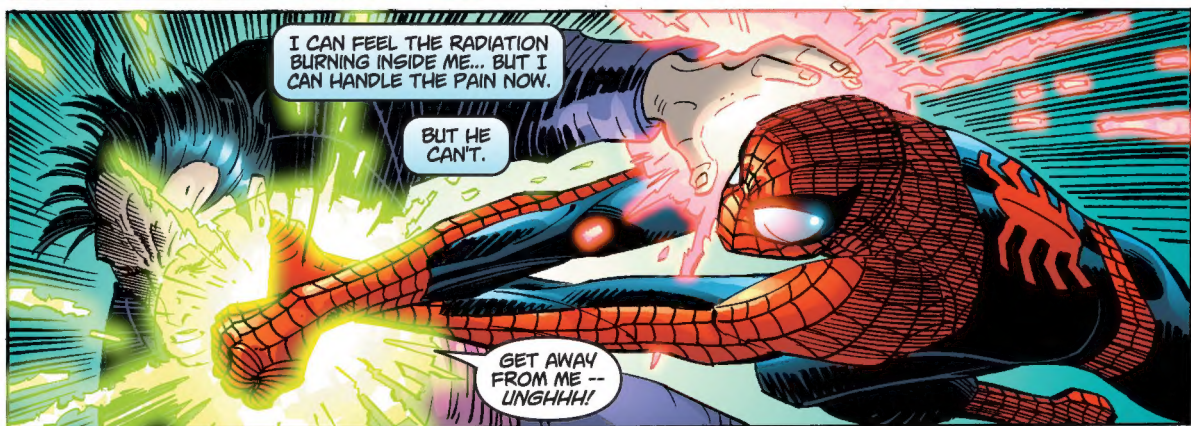
MAYBE THE SPIDER FINALLY GOT SMART AND DECIDED TO EVOLVE TO THE NEXT LEVEL. MAYBE IT GOT STUPID AND WAS WHERE IT SHOULDN'T HAVE BEEN.

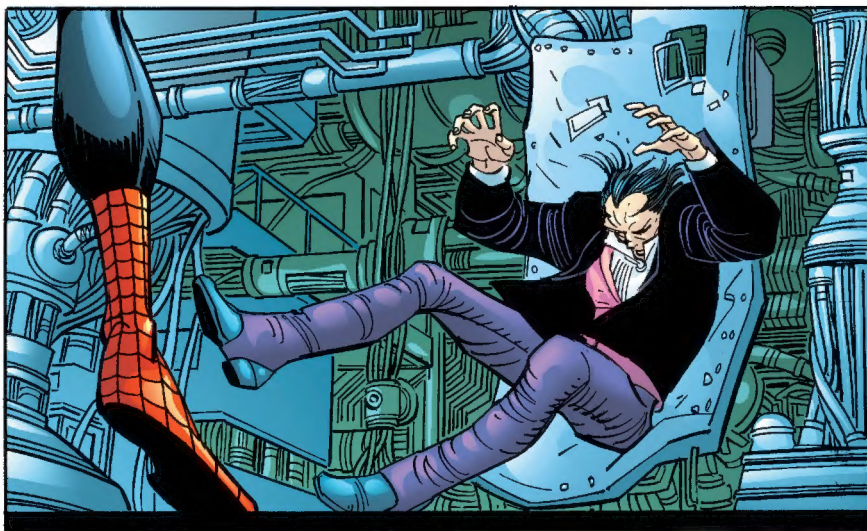
EITHER WAY, THE SPIDER AND THE RADIATION MET IN THE LAB, GOT HITCHED IN THE TEST TUBE, AND TOGETHER THEY PRODUCED... ME.

A CHILD OF THE SPIDER. FIRST COUSIN TO THE ATOM.

YOU CAN HANDLE THE FIRST. THAT'S WHAT YOU LIKE. THAT'S WHAT YOU FEED ON.

BUT RADIATION... AH, THAT'S A LITTLE HARDER TO SWALLOW, ISN'T IT?

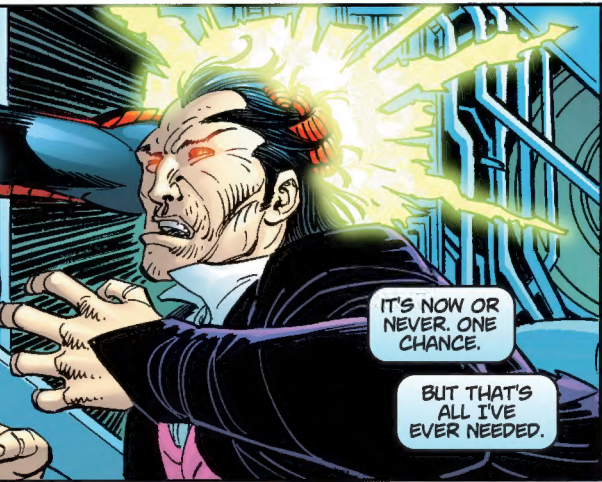




YES! THAT ONE HURT HIM. THE RADIATION HAS WEAKENED HIM ENOUGH FOR MY PUNCHES TO GET THROUGH.

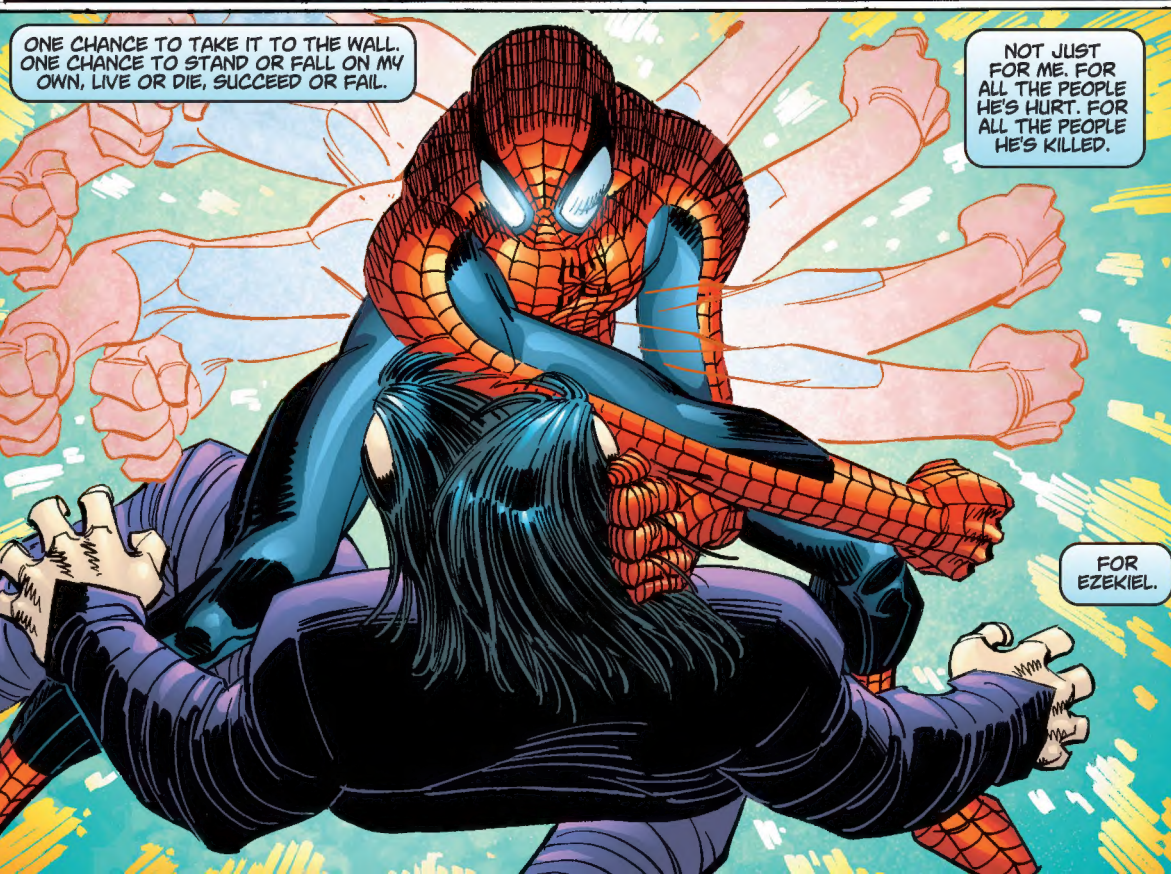


CAN'T LET HIM CATCH HIS BREATH. CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY OR GET HIS STRENGTH BACK.



IT'S NOW OR NEVER. ONE CHANCE.

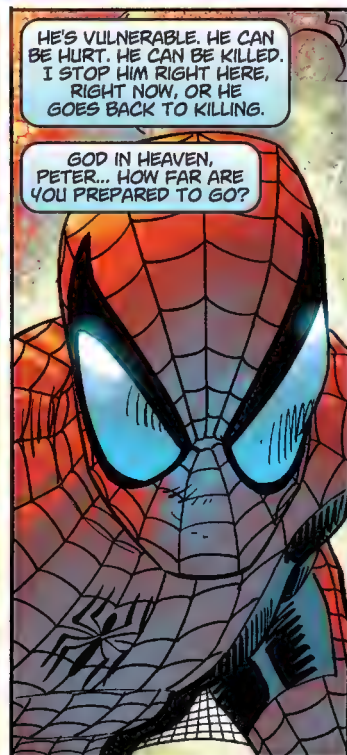
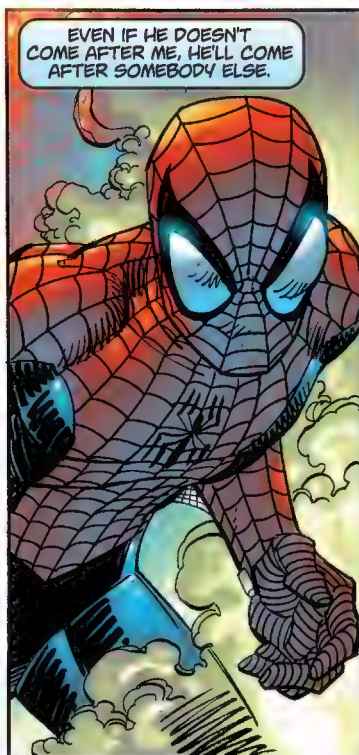
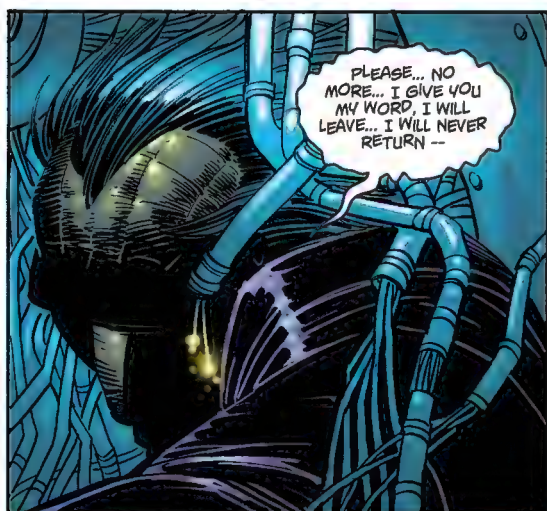
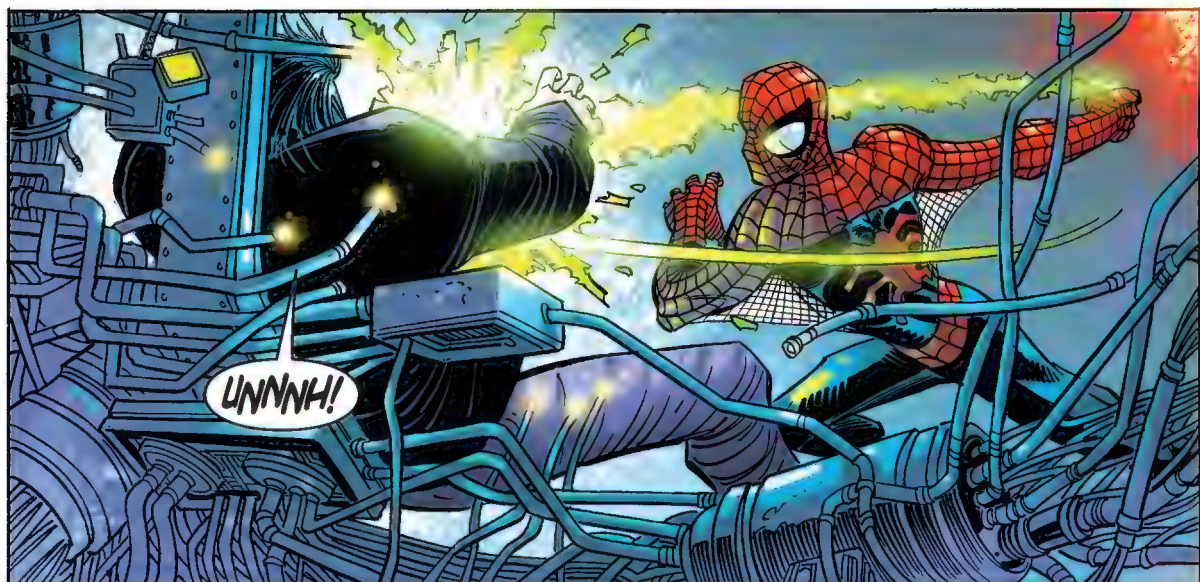
BUT THAT'S ALL I'VE EVER NEEDED.

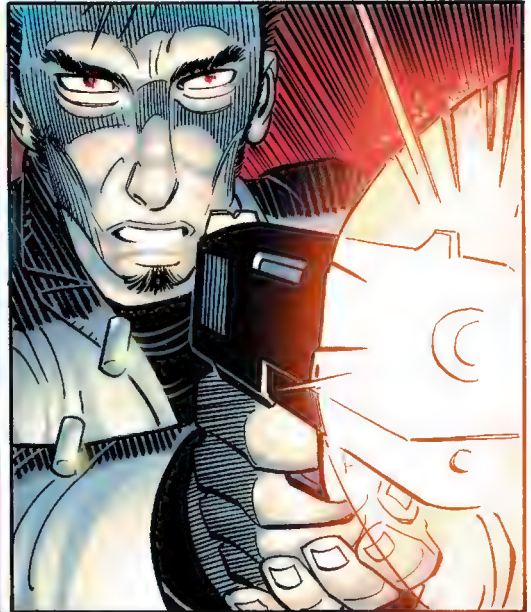
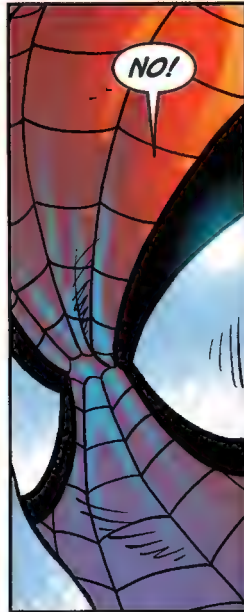
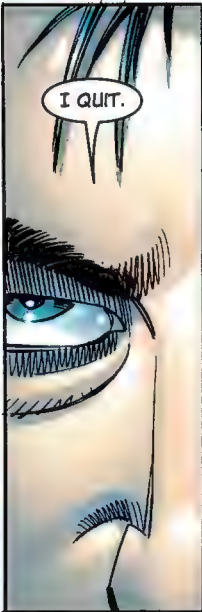
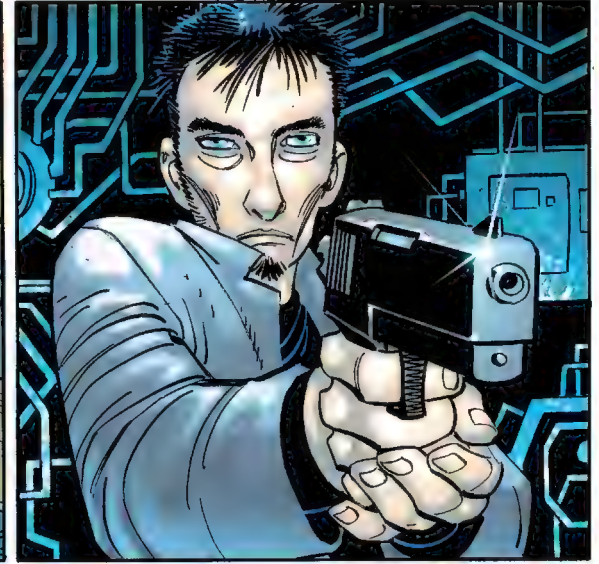
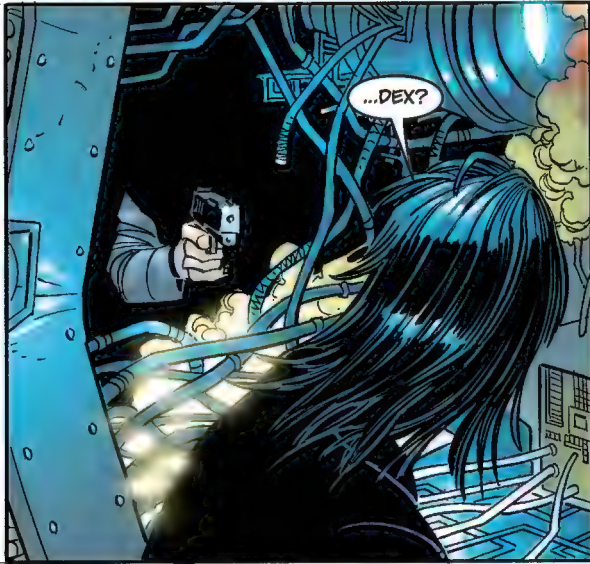
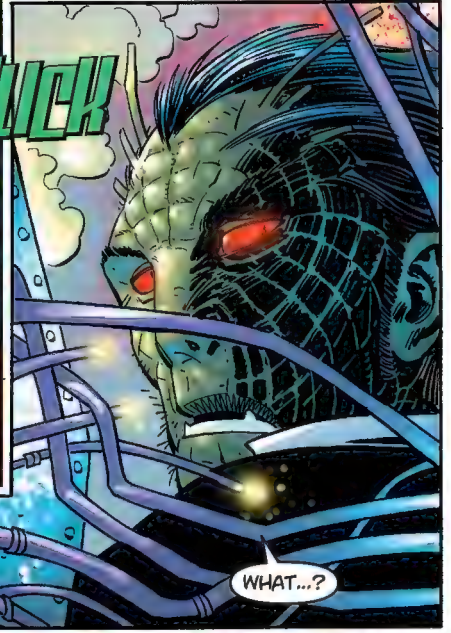
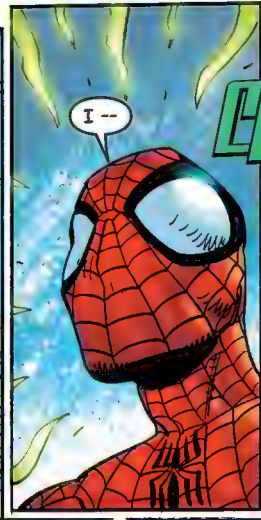


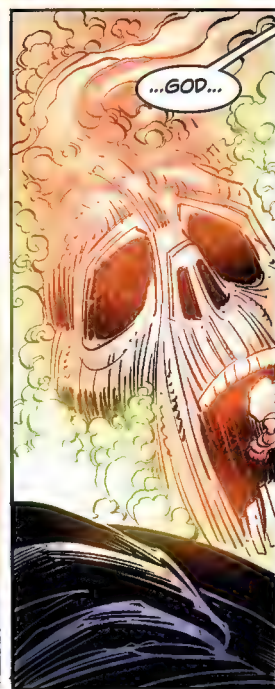
ONE CHANCE TO TAKE IT TO THE WALL. ONE CHANCE TO STAND OR FALL ON MY OWN. LIVE OR DIE, SUCCEED OR FAIL.

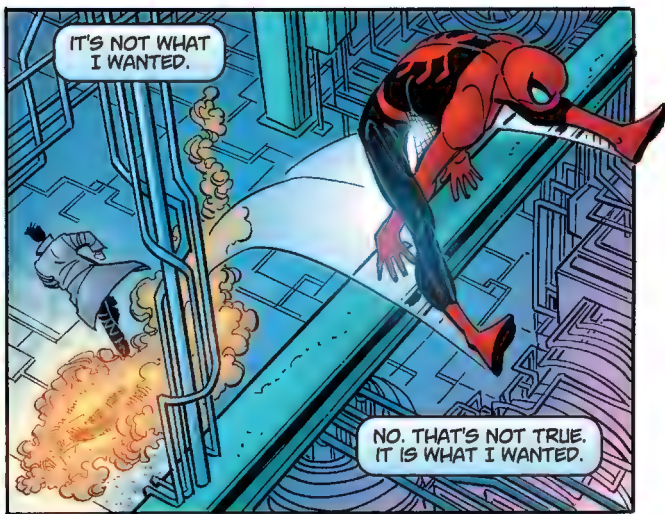
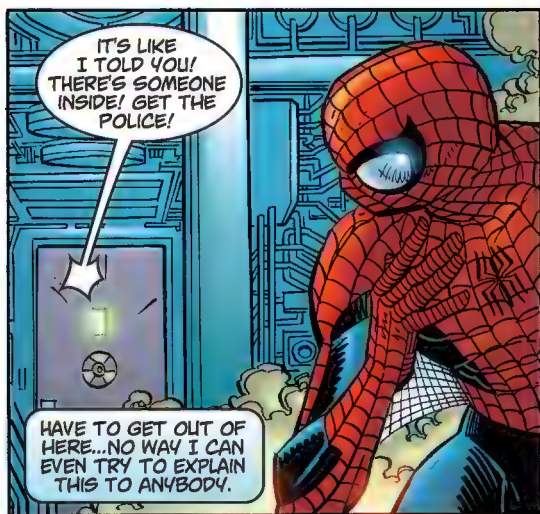
NOT JUST FOR ME. FOR ALL THE PEOPLE HE'S HURT. FOR ALL THE PEOPLE HE'S KILLED.

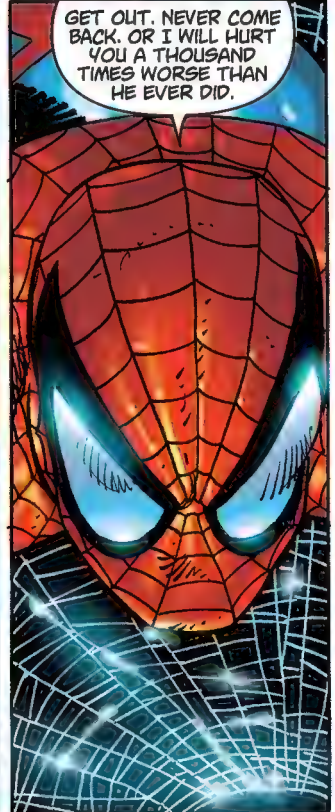
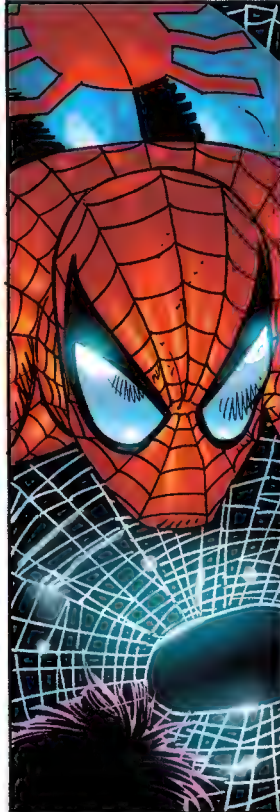
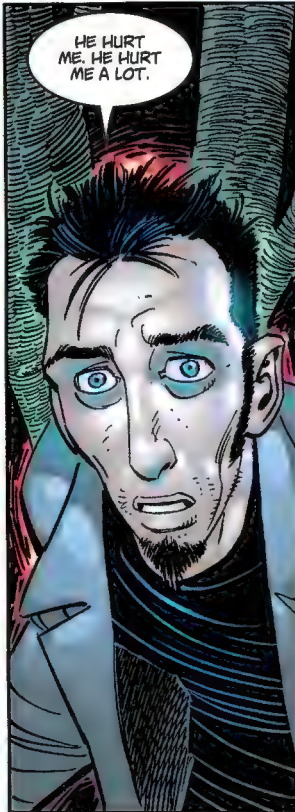
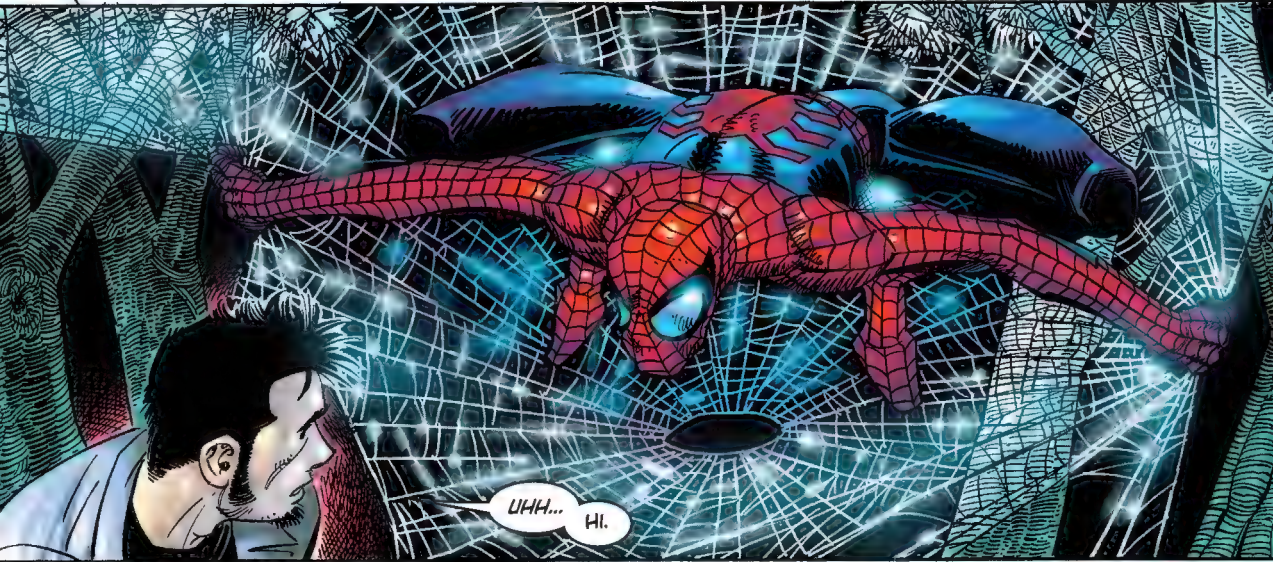
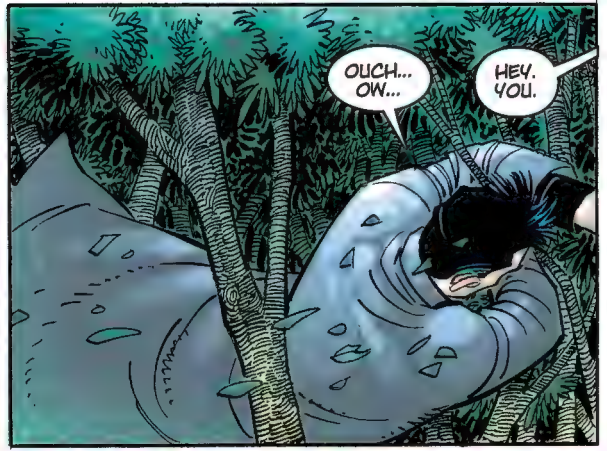
FOR EZEKIEL.

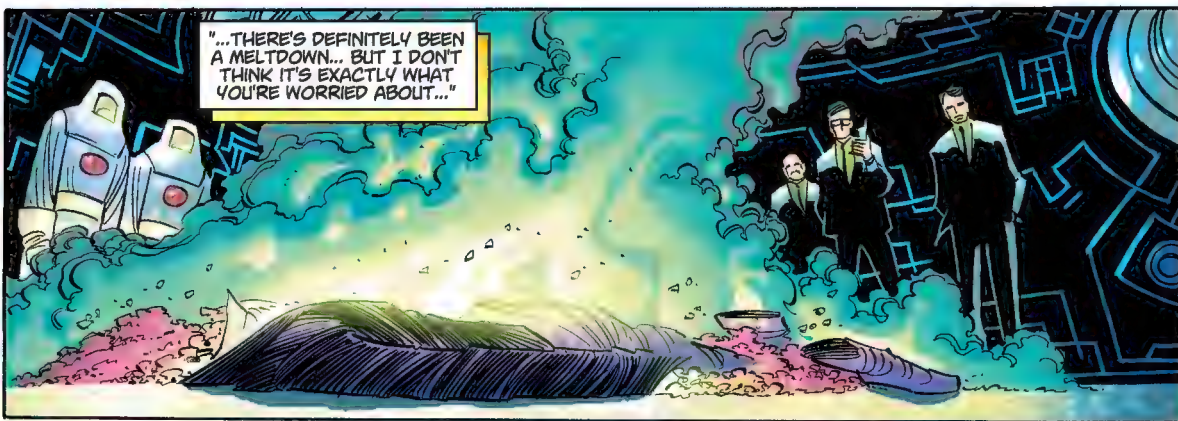
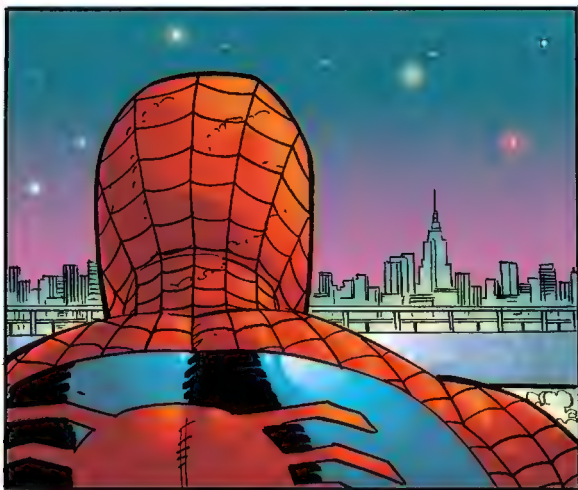


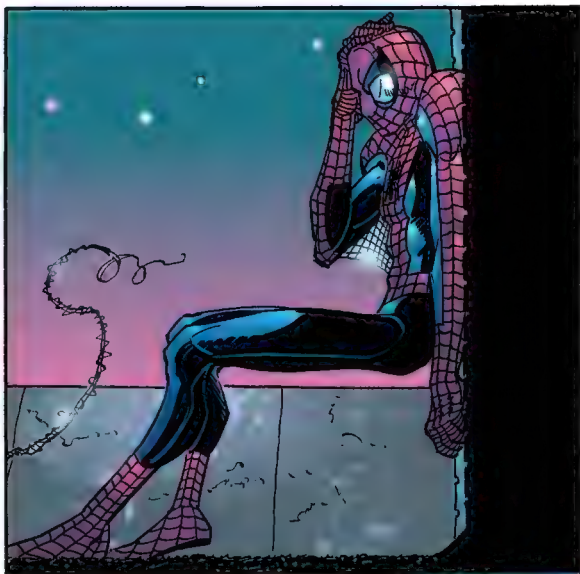




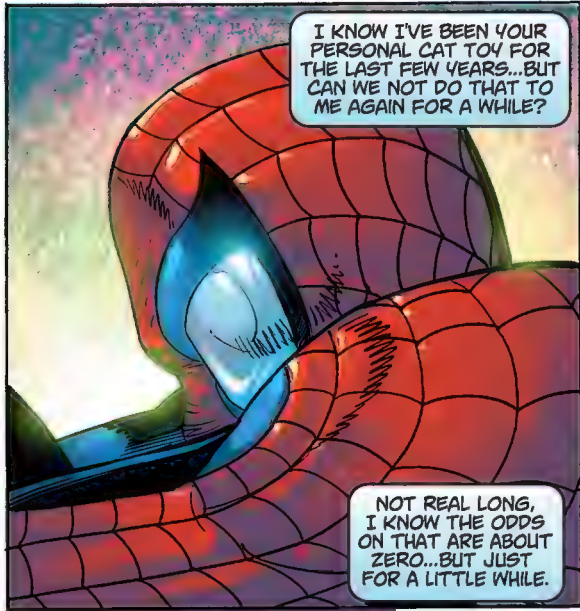








HELLO, GOD...
THIS IS PETER
PARKER. CAN I
ASK A FAVOR?



I KNOW I'VE BEEN YOUR
PERSONAL CAT TOY FOR
THE LAST FEW YEARS...BUT
CAN WE NOT DO THAT TO
ME AGAIN FOR A WHILE?

NOT REAL LONG,
I KNOW THE ODDS
ON THAT ARE ABOUT
ZERO...BUT JUST
FOR A LITTLE WHILE.



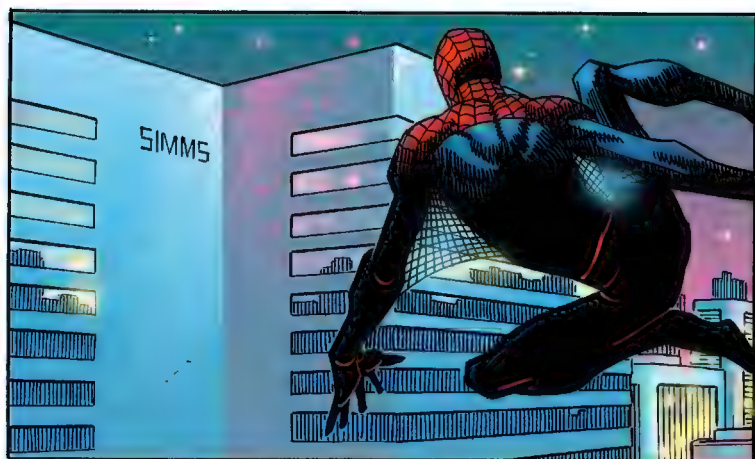
SAY...FIFTY OR
SIXTY YEARS? I
MEAN, THAT'S NOT
LONG IN YOUR
TERMS, RIGHT?



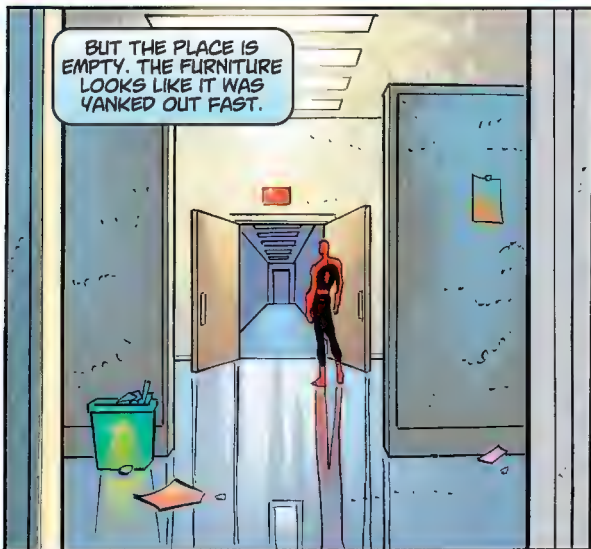
JUST KIDDING,
GOD...
JUST KIDDING.



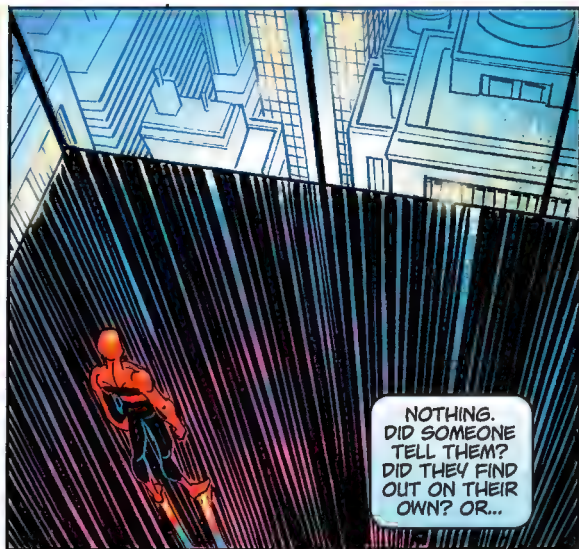
BUT I'LL BET
YOU KNEW THAT,
DIDN'T YOU?



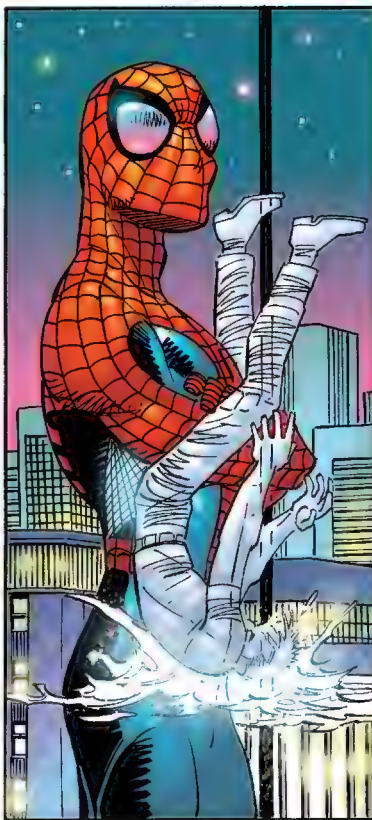
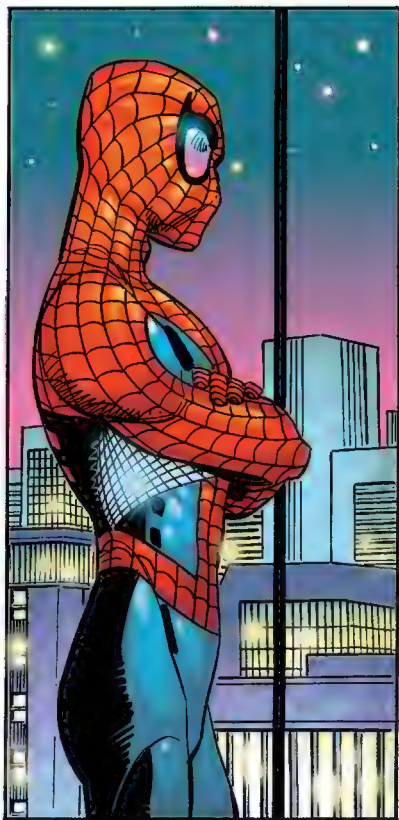
WHEN MY KNEES STOP SHAKING, I GO TO CHECK ON EZEKIEL'S PLACE. I FIGURE SOMEBODY HAS TO TELL THEM HE'S GONE. TELL THEM HE STOOD UP, ANTED IN, AND WENT DOWN SWINGING.



BUT THE PLACE IS EMPTY. THE FURNITURE LOOKS LIKE IT WAS YANKED OUT FAST.

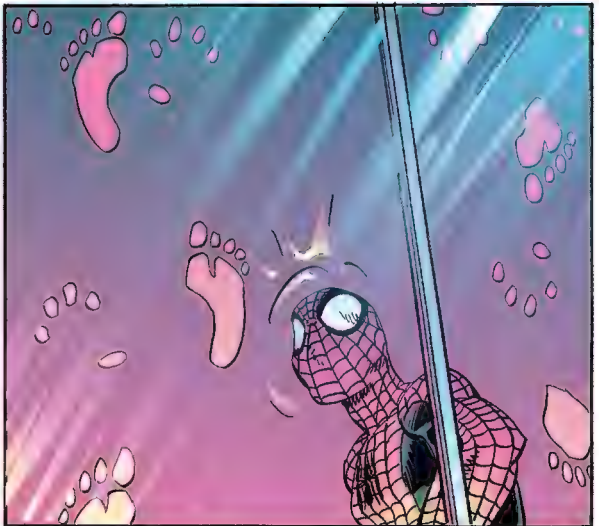
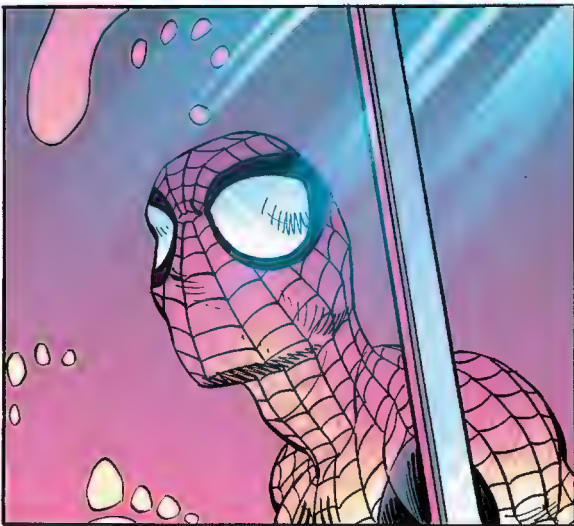
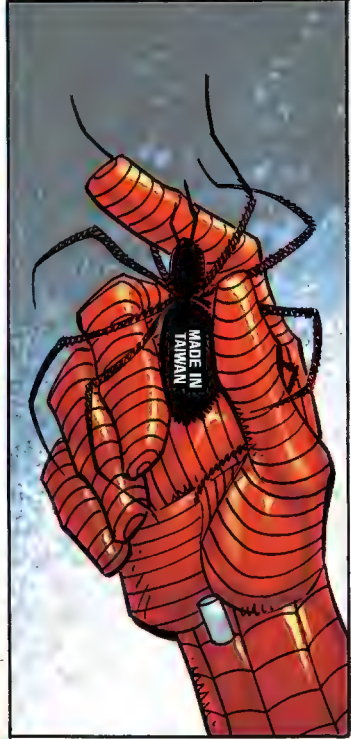
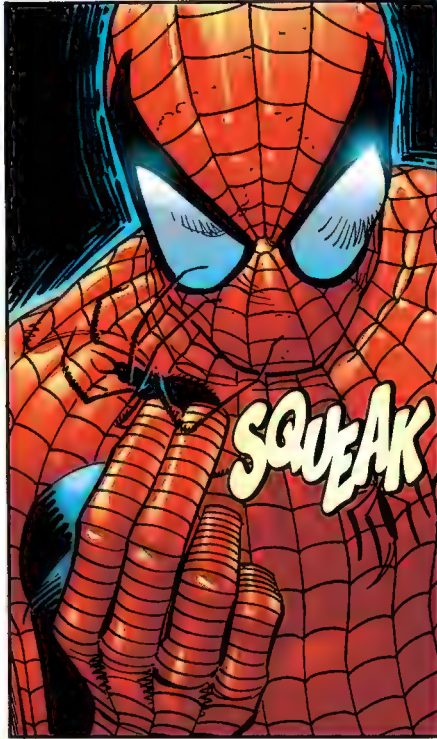
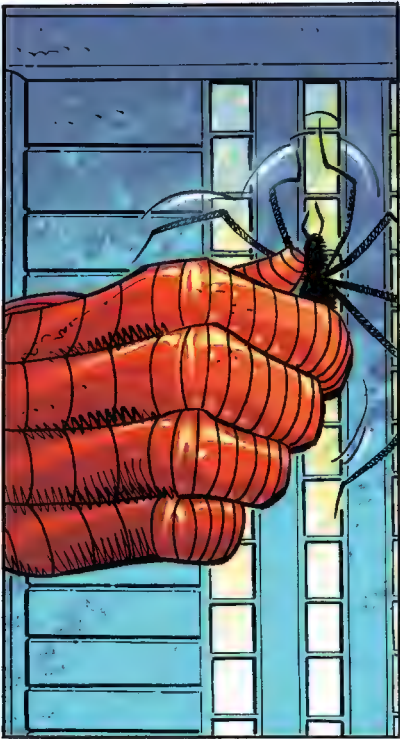
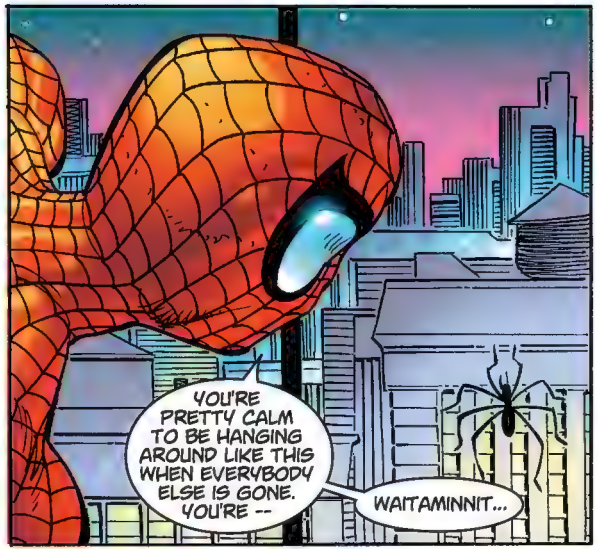
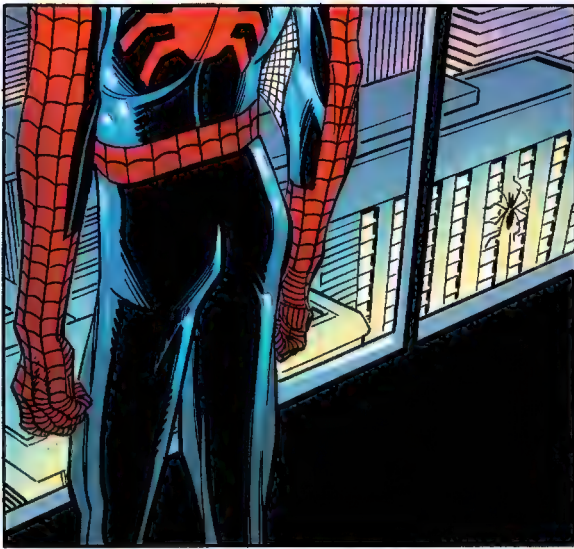


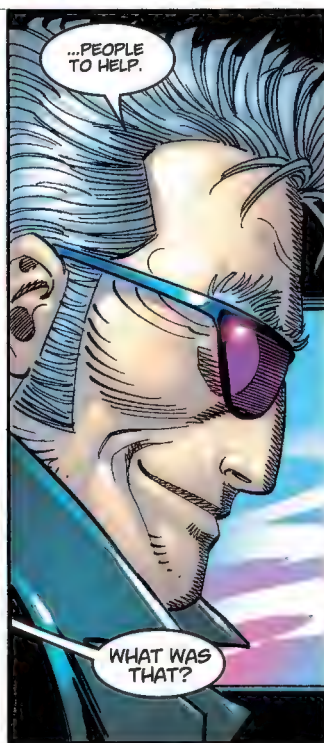
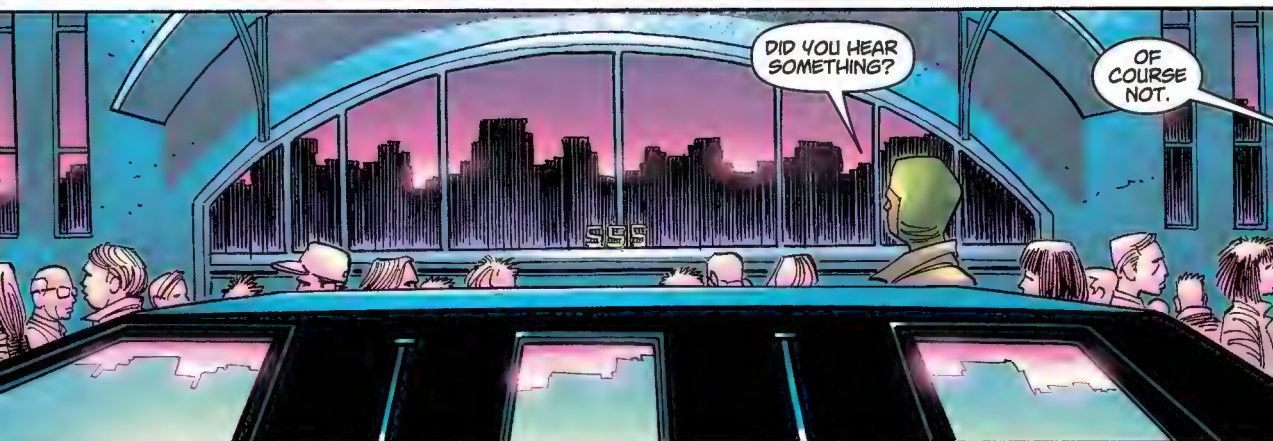
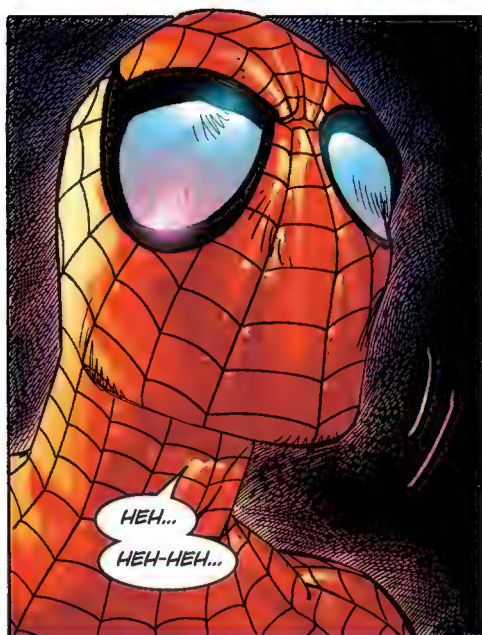
NOTHING. DID SOMEONE TELL THEM? DID THEY FIND OUT ON THEIR OWN? OR...

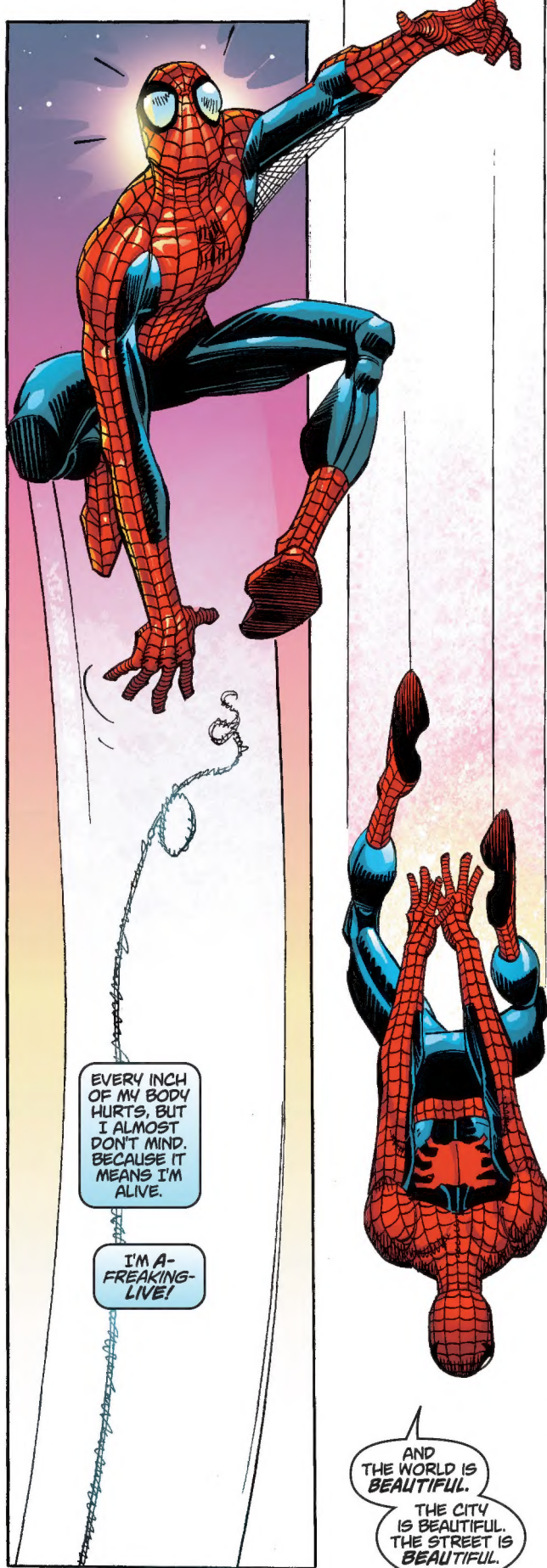


ARE YOU OUT THERE, EZEKIEL? DID YOU LAND ON YOUR FEET?

DO I NOT HAVE TO CARRY ONE MORE DEATH ON MY CONSCIENCE?







EVERY INCH
OF MY BODY
HURTS, BUT
I ALMOST
DON'T MIND.
BECAUSE IT
MEANS I'M
ALIVE.

I'M A-
FREAKING-
LIVE!

AND
THE WORLD IS
BEAUTIFUL.

THE CITY
IS BEAUTIFUL.
THE STREET IS
BEAUTIFUL.



EVEN YOU'RE
BEAUTIFUL.

YEAH,
AND MY WIFE
SAYS I'M REALLY
CUTE WHEN I'M
ANGRY, SO TAKE
A HIKE, YOU'RE
BLOCKING
TRAFFIC.



AND THE
DELI IS BEAUTIFUL
AND THE TRASH IS
BEAUTIFUL AND THE
HOOKERS ARE
BEAUTIFUL --

-- WELL...
KIND OF...
WAITAMINNIT,
IS THAT A
GUY?

NUT.

